

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Takeshi Yasumoto, et al. ) : Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Application No.: Not yet assigned ) : Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
Filed: October 17, 2001 ) :  
For: Driving Force )  
Transmission ) :  
Mechanism, Image )  
Forming Apparatus ) :  
Equipped With Such A )  
Mechanism, and ) :  
Process Unit Of Such )  
An Apparatus : October 17, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 22 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claim 22 is also attached.

22. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1 or 15, wherein said center shaft is rotatable integrally with said first and second coupling portions.

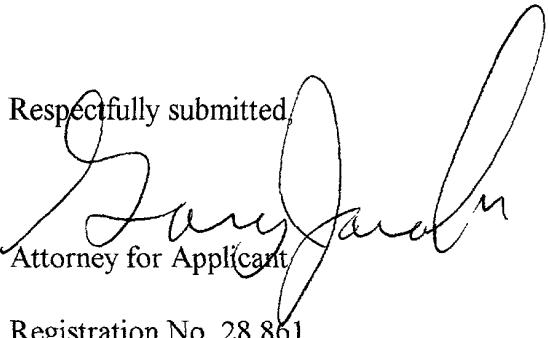
Remarks

Claims 1-48 are pending. Claim 22 has been amended to correct minor informalities therein. Claims 1, 15, and 32 are independent.

Consideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 28,861

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Marked-up copy of Amended Claim

22. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1 or 15, wherein [8. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein] said center shaft is rotatable integrally with said first and second coupling portions.

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